

There are numerous blessings and delights in our fellowship with Christ and seeing our lives flourish in the church. Family, fellowship, relationships, joy, the preaching, singing, giving of time and money to the work are all delights of the Christian life. All are joys that are a result of the work of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

- Jesus endured **6** trials the night He was betrayed: 1) With Annas, Jn. 18:12-23. 2) Then Caiaphas, the high priest, Jn. 18:24-27. 3) With the scribes, Sanhedrin council, Mk. 15:1. 4) With Pilate #1, Mk. 15:2-5. 5) Before Herod, Luke 23:8-12. 6) With Pilate #2, Matt. 27:11-26, Mk. 15:1-15, Luke 23:13-25, Jn. 18:28-40.

4 Afflictions Jesus Faced for Us:

1. Jesus Faced Wrongful Injustice to Purchase Our Justification: Jesus endured 6 trials all of which were illegal under Jewish law for these 8 reasons:

- 1) Trials weren't permitted before the daily sacrifice in the morning-these trials #1-3 were at night and early morning.
- 2) Religious trials are to be done in the open not at someone's house (Annas).
- 3) Trials of blasphemy occur at the Hall of Judgement and publicly.
- 4) Capital crimes needed 23 judges to preside, at night it was unlikely 23 would be available.
- 5) Jewish system is based upon innocence until proven guilty.
- 6) The accused was not asked to give testimony, Christ was beaten and told to answer.
- 7) 2 or 3 witnesses were needed to establish facts.
- 8) The accused couldn't be beaten until testimony and verdict was heard and proven.

In the trial of Mark 14:53-65, 12 illegalities are recorded:

1) V56-57, the false testimonies of witnesses. 2) V55, Jesus was innocent until proven guilty, they sought to put Him to death. 3) Not all judges could defend his guilt, some had to argue for innocence. 4) He was charged with blasphemy which needed a group of leaders present. 5) He could not be condemned by His own testimony. 6) Witness testimony that differed would be thrown out. 7) Witnesses would be admonished that their testimony would cause the blood of the accused to be upon them if they gave false testimony. 8) Witnesses weren't called on behalf of the accused. 9) The verdict couldn't be reached in one day. 10) The trial and verdict couldn't be on one day. 11) Trials couldn't happen before a feast, sabbath, or festival to permit leaders to be present. 12) Punishment could not be rendered at night.

Jesus declared legally guilty declared by an illegal trial. 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13.

2. Jesus Faced an Unrighteous Judge to Purchase My Pardon: Mk. 15:1-5, Pilate is thought of an innocent bystander trying to release Jesus (Mk. 15:14). He ruled during the death of John the Baptist, he had mixed the blood of the sacrifices with Galilean blood (Luke 13:1), and now the trial of Jesus with the Jews. Pilate was creating insurrection not peace. He desired to get favor with Herod by allowing Herod to punish and make an example of Jesus, Luke 23:8-12. Pilate was aware that the leaders of the Jews were envious of Jesus' following and His public rebuke of their false righteousness, Mk. 15:10.

Jesus completed deserved pardon; I deserve condemnation. Isa. 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, For He will abundantly pardon."

3. Jesus Faced Unmerited Death to Purchase My Eternal Life: Mk. 15:6-15, Barabbas had incited an insurrection against Rome. Pilate scourges Jesus while Barabbas watches and is then released. Jesus was stripped of clothes, hands bound, tied to a post, and beaten by two soldiers. Isa. 50:6, "I gave my back to those who strike Me," showing His love for the lost.

4. **Jesus Faced Humiliation to Purchase My Glorification:** Mk. 15:16-18, the whole cohort of soldiers (~600) watched as they dressed Jesus in purple, beat, spit upon Him, and mocked Him. They twisted a crown of thorns on His head, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews."

Jesus endured the hostility of man, so that we could be glorified together with Him. Jesus has promised glorification to believers, Rom. 8:30. We are promised glorified bodies (incorruptible and immortal), 1 Cor. 15:50-55. We will be with Jesus in glory, Col. 3:4.

Further Discussion and Application

The believer reads and understands the trials and abuse taken upon the body of Jesus for our sin. As we read the story and examine the trials He suffered, how do we see the innocence of Jesus verses our guilt? We are as guilty as Barabbas, yet because of the sacrifice of Christ, we are judged innocent because of His shed blood. He took the place of wicked men, but in His death, declared us justified if we believe in Him and the work on the cross.

There is a promise in 2 Timothy 2:10-13, that if we endure, we will also reign with Him. What must we endure? How will we endure? Where does the strength come from to endure? What is the death we must suffer in order to reign with Him? Why does Paul endure all the sufferings of preaching the Gospel? Col. 1:29, speaks of Paul agonizing over the work of proclaiming Christ. What must we believe about Jesus?

Read Romans 10:9-10. What does it mean that we confess Jesus as Lord? Who do we confess this to? Who must we tell this truth to? What is this confession of Jesus? The other thing we must do to be saved is to believe in our hearts God has raised Jesus from the dead. Why is the resurrection necessary for our salvation? Why does the sacrifice for sin have to be accepted by the Father and acceptable for cleansing? What does it mean to be holy?

God demonstrates His love for us by sending His Son while we were still in sin. Rom. 5:7-8 speaks of when a person might give their life for another. If it was for spouse or child, it might be a simple decision. Why would an innocent, guiltless person die for someone who deserves death because of their sins? What would we owe to the one who died in our place?